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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
Memorandum of Conversation
REVIEWED BY Jim Razi DATE 5/6/82

DATE: January 25, 1967

SUBJECT: Libya

PARTICIPANTS: Mr. Christian Herter, Jr., Mobil Oil
Mr. Paul Smith, Mobil Oil
Governor Harriman - S/AH
Deputy Assistant Secretary William Trimble- AF
Mr. Monteagle Stearns - S/AH
Mr. L. L. Kinsolving - NEA/ARN

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Governor Harriman expressed concern about the fact that in Libya contracts for foreign advisers to the Government are running out. He felt the United States should be contributing more in the way of supplying technical assistance experts to the Libyans. He pointed out that this would be in the interest of the oil companies.

Mr. Herter replied that Mobil Oil had been collaborating with several other major oil companies in a project to help the Libyans develop the Roman ruins at Leptis Magna. Mobil Oil's policy is to support private foundations in such projects rather than getting into them directly. Unfortunately the Government of Libya is very slow in making up its mind when approached about technical assistance projects.

Governor Harriman regretted that there is such a small proportion of Americans working on a contractual basis as advisers to the Libyan Government. The problem stems from the fact that the salaries offered are too small to attract Americans. He had therefore proposed that AID look into the problem of supplying such advisers. However, Libya has been removed from the list of countries eligible to receive bilateral technical assistance from AID. Ambassador Trimble explained that assistance could be given to Libya only on a regional basis as part of a grouping of North African countries; and that as things stand now assistance can be given only for projects, not for advisers.

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Mr. Herter stated that if there is any way that the United States Government can persuade the Libyan Government to accept more American advisers, Mobil Oil will be glad to try to find some mechanism through which Mobil Oil can support the maintenance of such advisers, provided it does not appear that Mobil Oil is thus paying the salaries of key Libyan Government officials.

In response to a question from Governor Harriman, Mr. Herter said that Mobil Oil and the other companies in the nine-company group intended to continue supporting the AFME vocational training program that had proved so successful since its inauguration in the fall of 1965. In general however he was not sanguine about the possibilities for future cooperation between the major and minor companies on other technical assistance projects and believed that the companies could accomplish more individually than by trying to act in concert.

Governor Harriman said that he was pleased to hear that the AFME project could continue. He urged the companies not to be discouraged by the fact that a greater number of projects had not been developed during the past year and a half. The Department and the Embassy would give more thought to suggesting appropriate mechanisms through which oil company aid could be channeled.

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